GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1949
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
PATENT LAWS
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of Indian Patent Laws costs multinational drug companies adversely;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) its impact on investment on research for new drug discovery;

(d) the total number of patented drugs particularly life-saving drugs in the country; and

(e) the rate of increase in prices of patented drugs during pre and post WTO regime in India and its effect on nation`s health?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH)

(a) to (c): The factors affecting the performance of the individual multinational drug companies are not monitored by the Government of India.

(d) &(e): The Indian Patent Act, 1970 does not have a provision for product patents for pharmaceuticals.